

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /108 W  
----- 044245

R 091052Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 392

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6422

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORN, PK, AF

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF AFGHAN AMBASSADOR ON CURRENT  
SITUATION

REF: STATE 156044, ISLAMABAD 6417

SUMMARY. AFGHAN AMBASSADOR MANIFESTED GENERALLY FAVORABLE VIEW OF DAUD, UNDER WHOM HE SERVED EARLIER AS CABINET OFFICER. EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS, HOWEVER, REGARDING YOUNG MILITARY GROUP COLLABORATING WITH DAUD. AMB REAFFIRMED HIS VIEW THAT BHUTTO WANTS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN AND HOPE THAT ONLY PEACEFUL MEANS WILL BE USED TO DEAL WITH PUKH-TOONISTAN ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE MET AUGUST 9 WITH AFGHAN AMB POPAL AT LATTER'S REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION OF SITUATION FOLLOWING AFGHAN COUP. POPAL INDICATED HE DID NOT QUITE UNDERSTAND USG POSITION IN DEALING WITH NEW GOVERNMENT IN KABUL BECAUSE OF APPARENT ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC "RECOGNITION" BY WASHINGTON. CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT USG, THROUGH AMB NEUMANN, HAD MOVED PROMPTLY TO INFORM NEW  
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GOA OF OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN LONG-STANDING FRIENDLY

RELATIONS; ALTHOUGH AS MATTER OF POLICY THE WORD "RECOGNITION" WAS NOT USED OUR ACT WAS TANTAMOUNT TO IT AND INDICATED IN CLEAR TERMS OUR POSITIVE INTENTION TO CONTINUE VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN SUCH AS WE HAVE ENJOYED FOR MANY YEARS. POPAL SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE THIS EXPLANATION. CHARGE THEN WENT ON TO TALK OF USG'S POSTURE TOWARD AFGHANISTAN ALONG LINES USED BY SISCO IN CONVERSATION WITH AMB MALIKYAR ON AUGUST 3.

2. REFERENCE TO DAUD'S INITIAL STATEMENT ON PUKH-TOONISTAN BROUGHT POPAL TO REITERATE HIS OWN VIEW ON IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING NOT ONLY PEACEFUL BUT FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. HE HAS PRESSED THIS VIEW FIRMLY ON KABUL SINCE HE ARRIVED IN ISLAMABAD FOUR YEARS AGO. HE HAS ALSO CONSISTENTLY BEEN REPORTING TO HIS GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, THAT PRES BHUTTO WANTS FRIENDSHIP WITH AFGHANISTAN -- A VIEW WHICH, ACCORDING POPAL, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH SKEPTICISM IN SOME QUARTERS IN KABUL.

3. POPAL RECALLED HIS OLD ASSOCIATION WITH DAUD (HAVING SERVED AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN PREVIOUS DAUD CABINET) AND SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT DAUD WAS A CHAMPION OF THE PUKHTOONS. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT COURSE DAUD WOULD FOLLOW VIW-A-VIS PAKISTAN NOW THAT HE WAS BACK IN OFFICE AGAIN. POPAL HAD LAST SEEN DAUD IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR ON HIS LAST VISIT TO KABUL. DAUD, HE THOUGHT, HARBORED UNCERTAINTIES RE BHUTTO AND HIS LEADERSHIP. (ON OTHER HAND, DAUD HELD FIRM -- BUT QUITE NEGATIVE -- OPINION OF GOP INTERIOR MINISTER QAYYUM, FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF NWFP.) IF DAUD REJECTED POPAL'S RECOMMENDATION TO SEEK POSITIVE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN, POPAL WOULD RESIGN HIS POST. IF DAUD WISHED TO PURSUE SUCH FRIENDLY RELATIONS, POPAL WOULD BE QUITE WILLING TO STAY AT HIS PRESENT POST DESPITE HIS ALREADY LONG TENURE.

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4. AS FOOTNOTE TO ABOVE, POPAL (A PATHAN HIMSELF) SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT PATHANS OF PAKISTAN LIKED DAUD AND CONSIDERED HIM THEIR GOOD FRIEND. THIS WAS ALSO GENERALLY TRUE OF BALUCH IN PAKISTAN. POPAL SAID THIS ESTEEM HAD RESULTED FROM DAUD'S LONG PERIOD OF PUBLIC SERVICE, NOT ONLY HIS TENURE AS PRIMIN BUT HIS PREVIOUS YEARS AS GOVERNOR OF JALALABAD AND KANDAHAR REGIONS. POPAL THEN REFERRED WITH SOME ANNOUNCE TO RECENT REFERENCE BY ACSO

REGIONAL COUNTRIES TO "SUBVERSION" IN  
BORDER AREAS, WHICH SOME OF HIS COUNTRYMEN CONSIDERED  
AS SLUR ON AFGHANISTAN. POPAL THEN VOLUNTEERED OPINION  
THAT "INDIANS" WERE IN FACT ENGAGING IN SOME SUBVERSIVE  
ACTIVITY OF PAK SIDE OF AFGHAN-PAK BORDER. HE DID NOT  
BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIETS WERE ENGAGED IN SUCH  
ACTIVITY. IN ANY EVENT (AND IN THIS CHARGE AGREED WITH  
HIM) HE THOUGHT SOLUTION TO SUCH PROBLEMS AS PAKISTAN  
HAD WITH ITS PATHAN AND BALUCH POPULATION LAY FUNDA-  
MENTALLY IN ACHIEVING SATISFACTORY POLITICAL ACCOMMODA-  
TION AND UNDERSTANDING BY THE CONCERNED ELEMENTS INSIDE  
PAKISTAN. POPAL EXPRESSED HOPE (AND AGAIN CHARGE  
AGREED WITH HIM) THAT SUCH SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND

IN COURSE OF CURRENT ECOPYTICAL DEVELOPMENTS CU PAJHSTAN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6422

5. POPAL VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WAS DISTURBED BY WAY  
IN WHICH DAUD WAS INITIALLY HANDLING RELATIONS WITH  
IRAN AS EMEEMPLIFIED BY PENDING AGREEMENT ON HELMAND  
WATERS. IN COURSE OF VARIOUS CALLS ON DAUD IN PAST  
SEVERAL YEARS, POPAL HAD FOUND HIM PRETTY WELL INFORMED  
ON CURRENT EVENTS AND IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE HE

DID NOT KNOW CONTENTS OF PROPOSED WATERS AGREEMENT. IN POPAL'S VIEW, THAT AGREEMENT WAS FAVORABLE TO AFGHANISTAN AND IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT DAUD GOVERNMENT MOVE RAPIDLY TO INDICATE DESIRE FOR AMICABLE RELATIONS WITH TEHRAN.

6. POPAL SAID REPORTS OF DAUD'S PRO-MOSCOW BIAS WERE WRONG. THERE WAS GOOD REASON FOR DAUD (AND KIGHANISTAN) TO BE GRATEFUL FOR HELP RECEIVED FROM USSR, BUT DAUD WAS NOT KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD LET ANY OUTSIDER TELL HIM WHAT TO DO.

7. ASKED WHY HE THOUGHT COUP HAD COME ABOUT, POPAL RECALLED THAT DAUD HAD INDICATED TO HIM LAST APRIL HE WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT CORRUPTION AND ABOUT KING'S INATTENTION TO DUTY. IN POPAL'S OPINION, DAUD MUST HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN COUP PLANNING. HE THOUGHT TIMING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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COUP MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH MANEUVERING BY KING'S SON-IN-LAW, ABDUL WALLI, WHO NOW UNDER DETENTION.

8. POPAL INDICATED HE OF TWO MINDS ON NEW DAUD CABINET (SEE KABUL 5777). HE HAD LOW OPINION OF DEPUTY PRIMIN SHARQ, WHOSE MAIN ASSET IS PRESUMABLY HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH DAUD. HE HAD HIGHEST PRAISE FOR MINJUSTICE MAJID AND GOOD WORDS ALSO FOR MINED PAZHWAK. POPAL SAID HE WAS TOTALLY BLANK ON THE SEVERAL YOUNG MEN IN CABINET WHO HAD OBVIOUSLY COME FROM ORIGINAL COUP GROUP. HE WAS INCLINED TO QUESTION HOW MUCH CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION LATTER COULD MAKE. INDEED, POPAL THOAETH IT IMPORTANT THAT DAUD PROCEED PROMPTLY TO MAKE NECESSARY INTERNAL REFORMS AND PREPARE NEW CONSTITUTION. THINGS COULD WORK OUT QUITE WELL IF THAT HAPPENED. BUT HE WAS APPREHENSIVE OVER WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF, FOR SOME REASON, DAUD DID NOT STAY ON AND IF LEADERSHIP WERE TO FALL INTO HANDS OF THE YOUNGER MILITARY GROUP.

9. POPAL HAS NOT BEEN ASKED TO RETURN TO KABUL AND DOES NOT KNOW WHAT PLANS THERE MAY BE TO CALL HIM BACK. HE SAID IT HAD BEEN REPORTED TO HIM SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT AFGHAN AMBASSADORDS IN WASHINGTON, MOSCOW AND TOKYO HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO KABUL. HE THOUGHT POSSIBLE THAT MALIKYAR, WHO WAS CLOSE TO DAUD, MIGHT BE ASKED TO TAKE ON SOME NEW ROLE. ONLY OTHER AFGHAN AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY CALLED BACK WAS ETEMADI FROM ROME; POPAL THOUGHT DAUD MIGHT POSSIBLY WANT ETEMADI TO TAKE ON SOME NEW JOB, BUT HIS RETURN TO KABUL WAS MORE

PROBABLY CONNECTED WITH AFFAIRS OF ROYAL FAMILY CAUGHT  
IN OR SENT TO ITALY.

10. COMMENT: WE THOUGHT WORTHWHILE TO REPORT POPAL'S  
VIEWS BECAUSE OF HIS LONG ACQUAINTANCE WITH DAUD AND  
HIS CONTINUING INTEREST IN AFGHAN POLITICAL SITUATION  
(HE WAS MINISTER NOT ONLY UNDER DAUD BUT ALSO UNDER  
ETEMADI). WE FOUND POPAL GENERALLY PRO-DAUD BUT  
RESERVING HIS OPINION AS TO HOW THE NEW GOVERNMENT  
WILL WORK OUT. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY POSITIVE VIEW HE  
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CONTINUES HOLD ON NEED FOR FRIENDLY AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS,  
AND HOPE HE WILL SUCCEED IN IMPRESSING THIS VIEW ON  
DAUD.  
SOBER

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## Message Attributes

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